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Central Intelligence Agency

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(b)(1)APPROVED FOR RELEASE   
DATE: 02-Apr-2009

Washington, D.C. 20505

OCA FILE:  
EXCERPT #:

SSPA:CN

OCA 0184-92  
23 JAN 1992

The Honorable John F. Kerry  
 Chairman  
 Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs  
 United States Senate  
 Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Director has asked me to respond to your letter of December 20, 1991 which requested information on former senior Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) personnel in Laos and Vietnam and on US citizens who had not returned from Laos from 1961 to the present as a result of assignments in or over Laos prior to 1975.

The full names of CIA Chiefs of Station  
 [redacted]  
 Vientiane from 1961]

The Agency possesses two lists relating to US citizens who have not returned from Laos during the period 1961 to the present. The first is the DIA list of "US Unaccounted for in Southeast Asia." The second is a list compiled at CIA Headquarters on September 30, 1969 entitled, "American Air Contractor Operating Crew Fatalities (in) Laos, 1961 to Present." A copy of the second list is enclosed. That list showed two American civilians as missing in Laos: Air America employee, Eugene H. DeBruin, who is still listed as missing; and Bird & Son employee, Ernest Brace, who returned on March 28, 1973.

We have reviewed our files but have not located any lists received by the United States Government from foreign governments, contacts or individuals which relate to US individuals who have not returned from Laos. We will be reviewing a considerable volume of archived files in the coming week and will advise the Committee if any material on this subject is located.

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The Honorable John F. Kerry

In addition to the 1969 list of "American Air Contractor Operating Crew Fatalities (in) Laos, 1961 to Present" mentioned above, the following US citizens, all of whom were working for Air America, did not return from Laos:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date Lost</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Type of Aircraft</u>
James H. Ackley	7 Mar 73	Laos	C-123
Eugene DeBruin	5 Sep 63	Laos	C-46
Clarence Driver	7 Mar 73	Laos	C-123
George Ritter	27 Dec 71	Laos	C-123
Roy Townley	27 Dec 71	Laos	C-123
Edward Weissenback	27 Dec 71	Laos	C-123

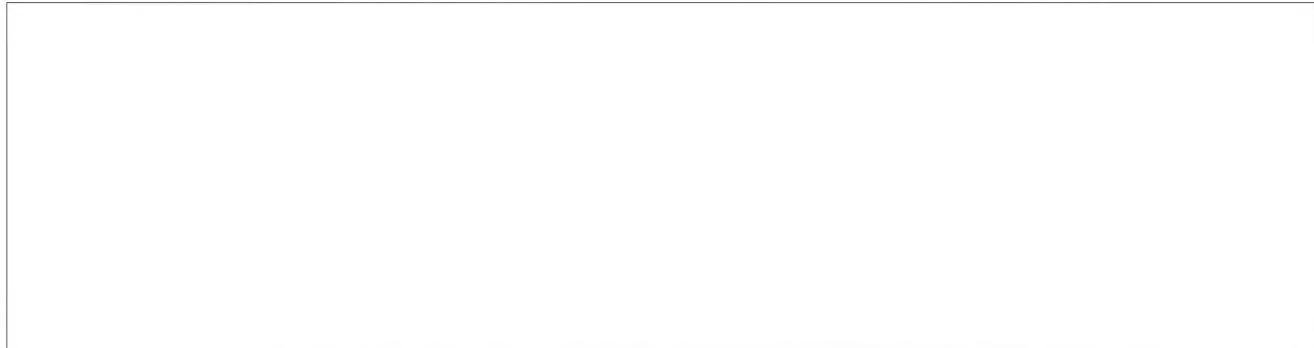
All six of these individuals also appear on the DIA listing of "US Unaccounted for in Southeast Asia." Of the above individuals, DIA lists DeBruin as a POW. Ackley, Driver, Ritter and Townley are listed as missing in action. There is a presumptive finding of death in Weissenback's case.

The other American civilians who remain missing in Laos had no affiliation with the Agency. They are Charles Duffy, who disappeared in 1961, and on whom there is a presumptive finding of death; Charles Dean, captured in 1974, whose gravesite has been identified in Laos; and Alan L. Blewett, lost while flying in a Navion aircraft in 1962, on whom there is also a presumptive finding of death.

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The Honorable Bob Smith



A copy of this letter is also being provided to  
Chairman Kerry.

Sincerely,

/s/ Stanley M. Moskowitz

Stanley M. Moskowitz  
Director of Congressional Affairs

Enclosures

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OCA 0184-92

SUBJECT: Letter to Senators Kerry/Smith re Laos and POW/MIA  
Issue - Ltr of 20 Dec 91

(22 Jan 92)

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Central Intelligence Agency

Washington, D.C. 20505

OCA 0184-92/1

23 JAN 1992

The Honorable Bob Smith  
Vice Chairman  
Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Vice Chairman:

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The full names of CIA Chiefs of Station  
Vientiane from 1961

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We have reviewed our files but have not located any lists received by the United States Government from foreign governments, contacts or individuals which relate to US individuals who have not returned from Laos. We will be reviewing a considerable volume of archived files in the coming week and will advise the Committee if any material on this subject is located.

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The Honorable Bob Smith

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Eugene DeBruin	5 Sep 63	Laos	C-46
Clarence Driver	7 Mar 73	Laos	C-123
George Ritter	27 Dec 71	Laos	C-123
Roy Townley	27 Dec 71	Laos	C-123
Edward Weissenback	27 Dec 71	Laos	C-123

All six of these individuals also appear on the DIA listing of "US Unaccounted for in Southeast Asia." Of the above individuals, DIA lists DeBruin as a POW. Ackley, Driver, Ritter and Townley are listed as missing in action. There is a presumptive finding of death in Weissenback's case.

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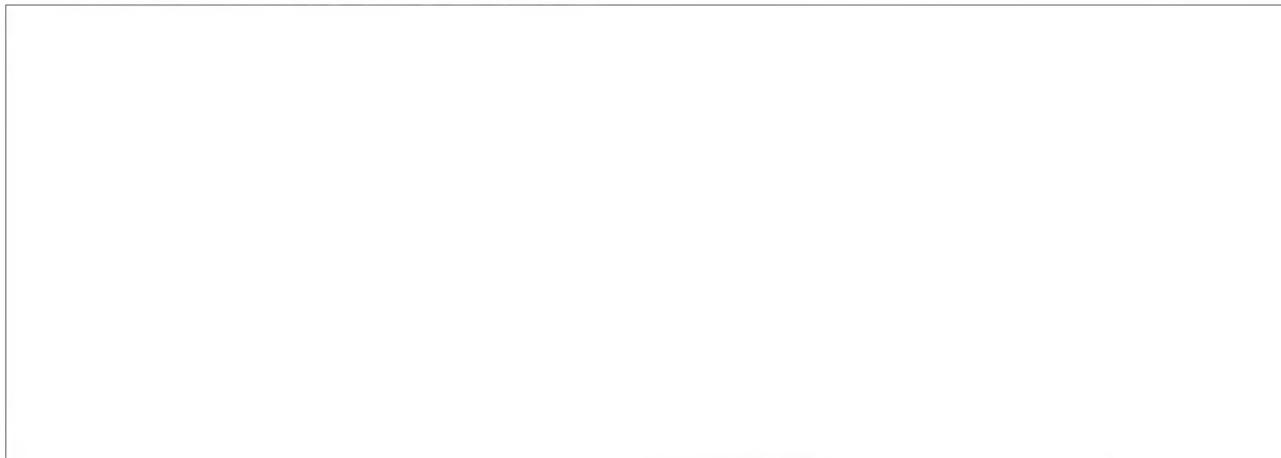
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The Honorable John F. Kerry



**Sincerely,**

**7s/ Stanley M. Moskowitz**

**Stanley M. Moskowitz  
Director of Congressional Affairs**

**Enclosures**

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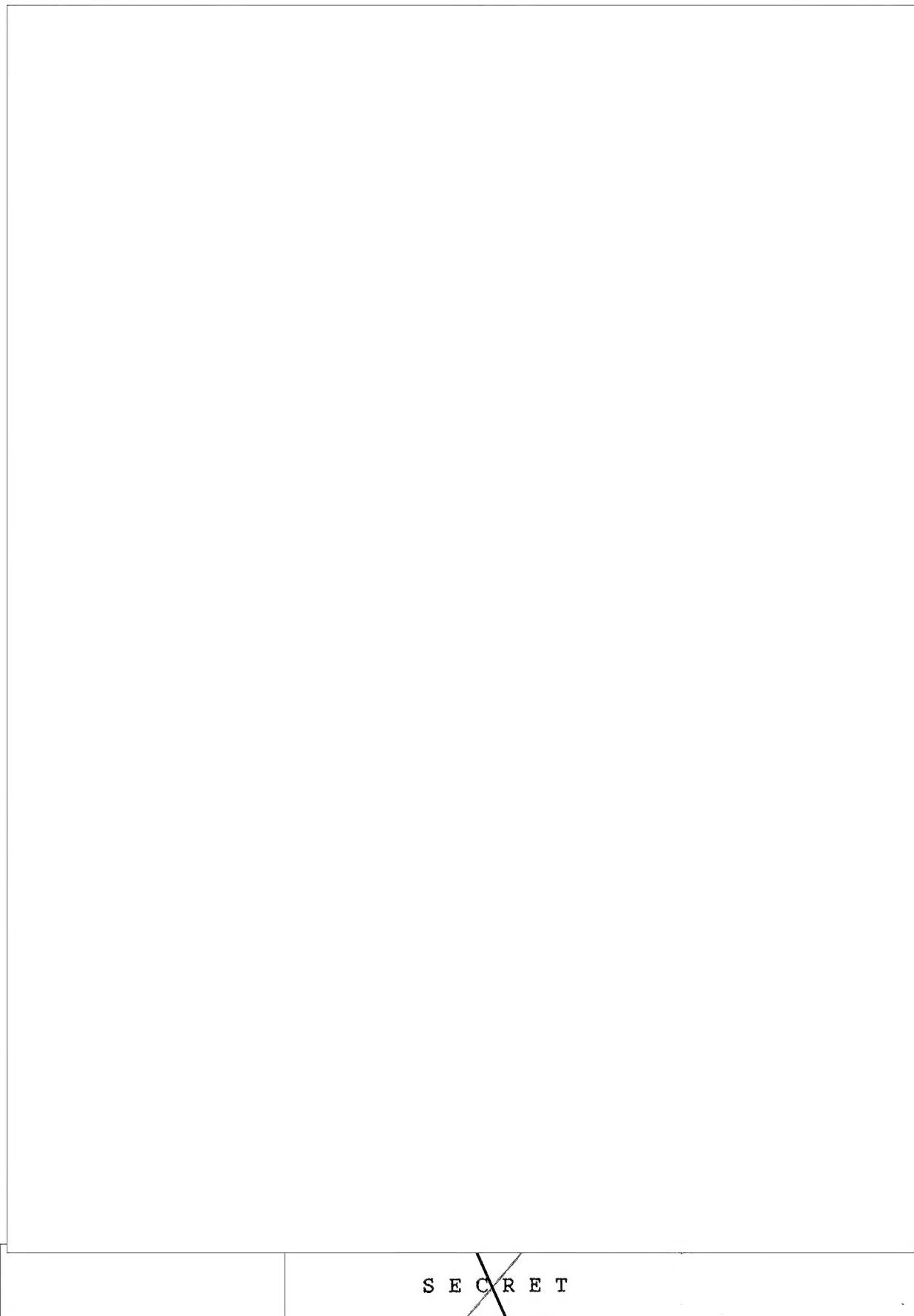
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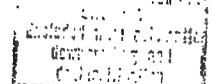
30 September 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR:

SUBJECT : American Air Contractor Operating Crew  
Fatalities Laos, 1961 to Present

AIR AMERICA	42	1 captured
BIRD & SON'S	7	1 captured
CONTINENTAL	8	
<hr/>		
TOTAL	57	

- (1) Breakdown by accident presently not available but can be furnished within 48 hours.
- (2) Bird & Son's totals probably correct but may be off by 1 or 2.



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## AMERICAN AIR CREWS MISSING

Air America

1963 - Air Freight Specialist Debruin C-46 flight was shot down and Debruin was captured.

Bird & Son's

21 May 1965 - Mr. Ernest Brace captured by enemy forces in Northwestern Laos when he landed at airfield which had been captured during the night by enemy forces. Mr. Brace is believed to be a POW in Hanoi area. No other fatalities this accident.

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<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>EQUIPMENT</u>	<u>REASON</u>
1 Oct 61	2 Americans	Phou Fa	P2V	Flight Accident
1962	1 American	Laos	CAMAIR	Flight Accident
1963	2 Americans	Laos (Phou Fa) File 2204	C-46	Flight Accident
1963	Jerry Easter	Laos	Porter	Flight Accident
25 Aug. 1965	Pet Donan	Ta Vieng	Helio	Flight Accident

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DATE	NAME	LOCATION	EQUIPMENT	REASON
25 Nov 1962	Jon C. Kasten	Seav. - Jet	C 46	Flight Accident
3 Oct 1965	Frank Magee, Jr.	Lam Son	C 123	Flight Accident
17 July 1963	Gerald Paul F. Mino	Savaberry	C 46	Flight Accident
Nov 1962	Fredrick Riley	F-5	C 123	Ground Fire
24 Aug 1964	Albert Santovoli	Enviroflight		Helio-Courier Flight Accident
17 July 1963	George A. Vazquez	Enviroflight	C 46	Flight Accident
19 May 1966	John Willot	Near Ka Kheng	H 34	Flight Accident - Possibly Ground Fire
30 May 1961	Walter F. Wimborowski	Pha Dong	H 34	Flight Accident
30 May 1961	Charles H. Minter	Pha Dong	H 34	Flight Accident
13 Aug 1961	Norwood N. Forte	Pa Khao	C 46	Flight Accident
13 Aug 1961	Roger J. Sarno	Pa Khao	C 46	Flight Accident
4 Feb 1962	Herbert S. Strauss	PDJ	C 46	Ground Fire
4 Feb 1962	Howard F. Heinrich	PDJ	C 46	Ground Fire
6 April 1962	William H. Beale, Jr.	Xieng Dat	L 20	Flight Accident
6 April 1962	George R. Varney	Xieng Dat	L 20	Flight Accident
22 July 1962	Charles T.D. Miesenbach	Phou Bia	Helio	Ground Fire
<u>FLIGHT MECHANICS</u>				
8 Aug 1967	Earl Bruce	XC 405	H 34	Flight Accident

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<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>EQUIPMENT</u>	<u>REASON</u>
21 Feb 1968	Donald A. Booth	H-34	Flight Accident
21 Sept 1968	Joseph Chonky	C 46	Battle Damage
21 Sept 1968	John Cooney	H-34	Flight Accident
21 Feb 1968	Ronald E. Davis	Porter	Flight Accident Possible Battle Damage
21 Mar 1968	Wayne Ervin	Helio	Flight Accident
22 Mar 1968	William J. Fischer	Bell 205	Explosion/Trees in Battle Damage
23 Mar 1968	Norman A. Gruber	TG 3153	Bell 204B
23 May 1968	William J. Gibbs	TH 1070	H-34
27 Nov 1968	Donald C. Heritage	Porter	Ground Fire
5 Sept 1968	Charles Herwick	Muong Phine	Ground Fire
25 Nov 1968	Emmons B. Hopkins	C 46	Battle Damage
5 March 1968	Charles J. Jones	TG 3663	Flight Accident
22 Oct 1968	Richard W. Liebenthal	XC 0345	Flight Accident
		H 34	Exploded in air

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<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>EQUIPMENT</u>	<u>REASON</u>
29 May 1968	George Kesterson	Long Tie 3	Porter	Flight Accident
12 March 1969	Carl Steen	Savannakhet	DO-28	Flight Accident
6 April 1969	J. Prenton Buffalo	Northwest Laos	DO-28	Unknown HIT MOUNTAIN
1 December 1967	Mike Lepai	Northwest Laos	Porter	Unknown
5 January 1969	Marter	Udorn/Vientiane	Baron	Flight Accident
12 February 1969	Irwin	Northwest Laos	Porter	Unknown
15 August 1969	Carl Angel	Southern Laos	Porter	Flight Accident

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<u>NAME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>EQUIPMENT</u>	<u>REASON</u>
Patrick F. H. Carty	House Ma	Bell 205	Explosion/loss of Battle Damage
John Z. Pirillo	TH 3668	H 34	Battle Damage
Franklin Smith	XC 3645	H 34	Exploded in Flight
Clen R. Weller	TG 8118	Bell 204B	Explosion
Long Tieng	C 123		Fell to Death - Out of Control without chute
Land Tieng			
Gideon Kivation	Savannakhet	C 46	Flight Accident
Aubrey Wooten	Savannakhet	C 46	Flight Accident
David W. Egan	Pa Khao	C 46	Flight Accident
Parrell A. Eubanks	Pa Khao	C 46	Flight Accident
John S. Lewis	Pa Khao	C 46	Flight Accident
<u>FIGHTERS WHO WERE PASSENGERS</u>			
Robert H. Chronos	TJ 4014	Porter	Unknown
Lester Porter	Savannakhet	C 46	Flight Accident

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TO : <b>D/OCA</b>	CONTROL # OCA 0184-92	DATE OF REQUEST 23 Jan 92
FROM : <b>DD/SA via DD/OCA</b>	SUSPENSE DATE	
<b>SUBJECT :</b> Letter to Senators Kerry/Smith re POW/MIA - 20 Dec 91 incoming 1tr		
<b>NOTES</b>		
<b>COORDINATED WITH (list names as well as offices)</b>		
NAME  <b>DDO</b>	OFFICE	DATE
NAME	OFFICE	DATE
NAME	OFFICE	DATE
NAME	OFFICE	DATE
<b>ACTION REQUIRED BY</b> <b>D/OCA</b>		
For your signature		

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POW/MIA Affairs

JOHN F. KERRY, MASSACHUSETTS,  
Chairman  
THOMAS A. DASCHLE, SOUTH DAKOTA  
HARRY REID, NEVADA  
CHARLES S. ROB, VIRGINIA  
J. ROBERT KERREY, NEBRASKA  
HERBERT H. KOHL, WISCONSIN

BOB SMITH, NEW HAMPSHIRE,  
Vice Chairman  
JOHN McCAIN, ARIZONA  
HANK BROWN, COLORADO  
CHUCK GRASSLEY, IOWA  
NANCY LANDON KASSEBAUM, KANSAS  
JESSE HELMS, NORTH CAROLINA

FRANCES A. ZWENIG, STAFF DIRECTOR  
ALAN C. PITAK, DEPUTY STAFF DIRECTOR  
J. WILLIAM CODINHA, GENERAL COUNSEL

## United States Senate

SELECT COMMITTEE ON POW/MIA AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6500

December 20, 1991

Recd. in EL  
@ 1630  
on 20 Dec 91

Mr. Robert Gates  
Director of Central Intelligence  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, DC 20505

Dear Bob:

We are writing to request information from the Central Intelligence Agency pertaining to Laos and the POW/MIA issue. This information is essential for the Senate Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs to carry out its responsibilities under Senate Resolution 82 and Senate Resolution 185.

Specifically, we request the following items:

1. Please provide to the committee full names and current last known residential and business addresses for Central Intelligence Agency Chiefs of Station, Deputy Chiefs of Station, and any other personnel with responsibilities for POW/MIA matters assigned to the U.S. Embassy in Vientiane, Laos, and the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok, Thailand, for each year between the period of 1961 to present.
2. Please provide to the committee any lists compiled or received by the Central Intelligence Agency which relate to U.S. citizens who have not returned from Laos during the period of 1961 to present as a result of assignments in or over Laos prior to 1975.
3. Please provide to the committee any lists in the possession of the Central Intelligence Agency which have been received by the United States Government from foreign governments or contacts, or individuals which relate to U.S. personnel who have not returned from Laos.
4. Please provide the names of U.S. citizens who were assigned to Air America, Continental Air Services, or any other CIA proprietary organization and have not returned from Laos.
5. Please provide the full names and last known residential and business addresses for personnel assigned to

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Mr. Robert Gates  
December 20, 1991  
page 2

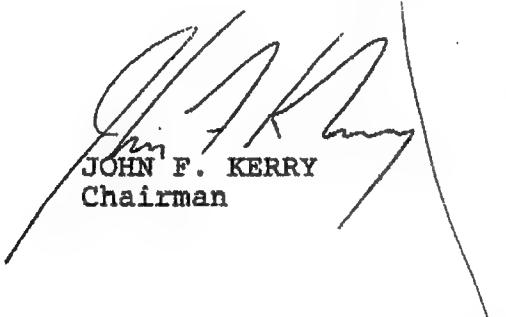
the security office of Air America in Vientiane Airport  
during the period of Air America's existence.

Your cooperation in providing this information to  
the select committee prior to January 20, 1992 will be most  
appreciated.

If any of these items contain classified information,  
please provide such material directly to the Office of  
Senate Security, S.407, U.S. Capitol.

Should you have any questions on this matter, please  
contact Mr. Dino Carluccio on the committee staff at (202)  
224-2306.

Sincerely,



JOHN F. KERRY  
Chairman



Bob Smith  
BOB SMITH  
Vice Chairman

OCA  
Action Plan for  
Congressional Correspondence  
to the DCI

23 DEC 1991

Date

DCI:

A response will be prepared  
for your signature with  
input from \_\_\_\_\_.

OCA will respond in consultation  
with \_\_\_\_\_.

*2 letters attached*

No written response is necessary.

-----  
CONCUR

I prefer

C01352210

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**IMMEDIATE**

Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D.C. 20505

Executive Secretariat

20 Dec '91

D/OCIA:

Stan -

Sen. Kerry's staff just  
faxed the att'd. two letters  
(Simulon: w/ mailing the  
orig.). Response requested  
by 20 Jan.

Do you want me to process  
these now as if they are  
the originals?

Please advise. *Y*

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DDA/O 0025/015-92

14 January 1992

MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED]

Chair, Senate Liaison Division  
Office of Congressional Affairs

VIA: Office of the Deputy Director for Operations

FROM: [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: CIA Information Pertaining to Station  
Personnel in Laos and Vietnam, U.S. Personnel  
who did not return from Laos; and Air American  
Security Officers

REFERENCE: Letter of 20 December 1991 from Senators Kerry  
and Smith of the Select Committee on POW/MIA  
Affairs to the DCI

1. This is in reply to the letter of 20 December 1991  
which requested information on former senior Central  
Intelligence Agency (CIA) personnel in Laos and Vietnam and on  
U.S. citizens who had not returned from Laos from 1961 to the  
present as a result of assignments in or over Laos prior to  
1975.

2. The full names for CIA Chiefs of Station [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] ientiane from 1961  
[REDACTED] are attached. The addresses of retired officers are  
provided and we will facilitate the Committee's contact with  
Agency officers who are still on active duty.

3. The Agency possesses two lists relating to U.S. citizens  
who have not returned from Laos during the period 1961 to the  
present. The first is the DIA list of "U.S. Unaccounted for in  
Southeast Asia". The second is a list compiled at CIA  
Headquarters on 30 September 1969 entitled, "American Air  
Contractor Operating Crew Fatalities (in) Laos, 1961 to  
Present". A copy of the second list is attached. That list

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showed two American civilians as missing in Laos: Air America employee Eugene H. DeBruin, who is still listed as missing; and Bird & Son employee Ernest Brace, who returned on 28 March 1973.

4. We have reviewed our files but have not located any lists received by the United States Government from foreign governments, contacts or individuals which relate to U.S individuals who have not returned from Laos. We will be reviewing a considerable volume of ~~archieveyed~~ files in the coming week and will advise the committee if any material on this subject is located.

5. In addition to the 1969 list of "American Air Contractor Operating Crew Fatalities (in) Laos, 1961 to Present" mentioned above, the following U.S. citizens, all of whom were working for Air America, did not return from Laos:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date Lost</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Type of Aircraft</u>
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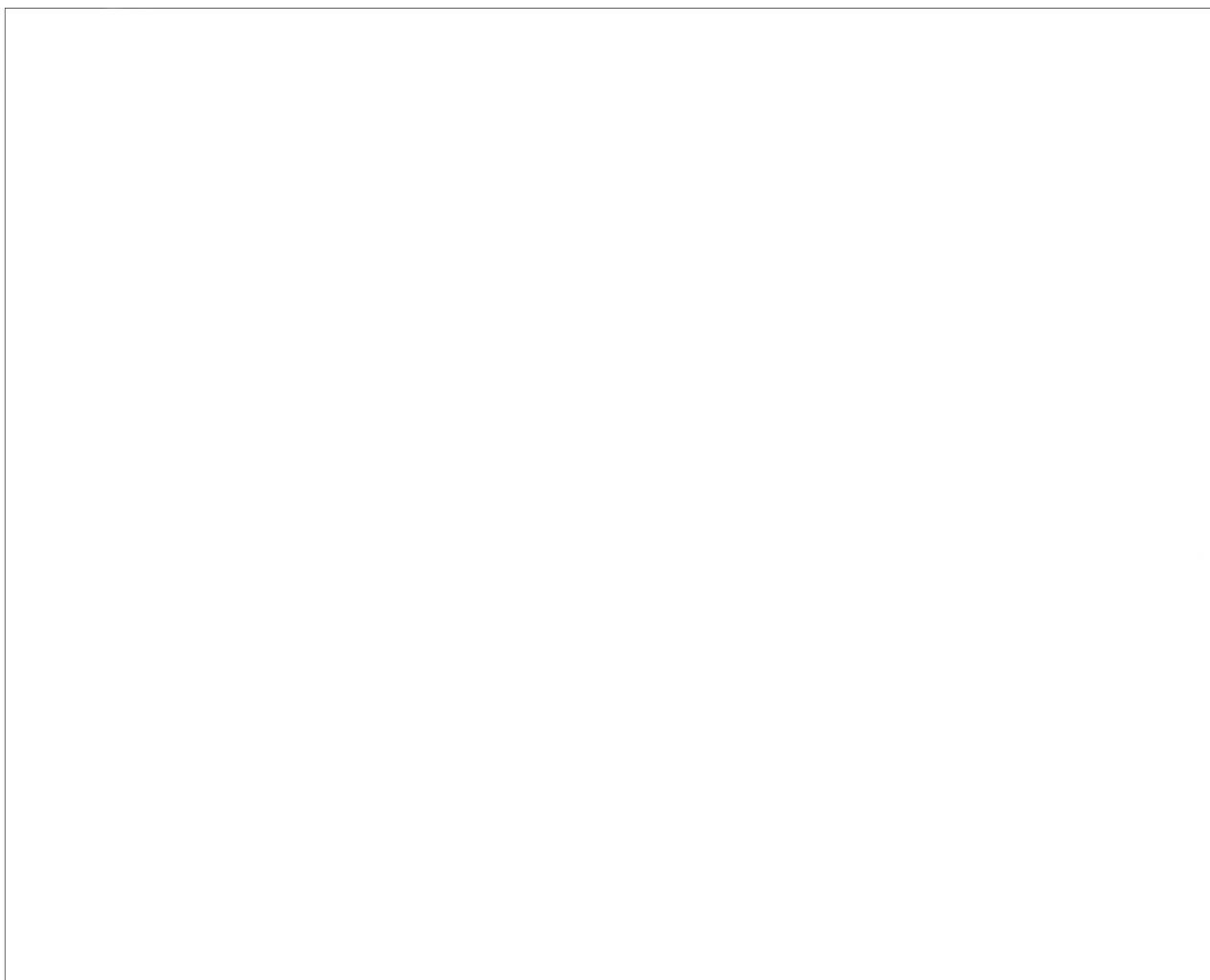
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Attachment: "American Air Contractor Operating Crew Fatalities  
Laos, 1961 to (1969)"

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